

ROLE PLAYING

An important part of social awareness is understanding and exploring the perspectives of others. One way children can do this is through role playing. Through role playing, children can explore the thoughts of others, appropriate social interaction, as well as even learning consequences through actions. In this activity, children will take on the role of someone that is socially different than them, like a teacher, parent, or peer and be given scenarios to act out. Through the acting they can explore various responses to different situations and evaluate why they chose their response.

In-person: Discuss with the group the importance of what was written of above. Have Little's give examples of who they would like to role play as and why. Discuss the list below as options. Separate participants into their matches to discuss the topic and pick a "character" and a "scenario" from the list below. Have the Bigs initiate the role playing followed by the Little's responses. After about 5 minutes, instruct everyone to switch to a new scenario. At the end, reflect on how the role playing went with the discussion questions below.

Virtual: Directions are similar to the in-person activity. Instead of discussing as a group, have the matches discuss the importance of social awareness and understanding the perspectives of others. Then have them pick their role play scenarios. They should act out at least 2 scenarios. When they are finished, they can reflect on the discussion questions provided below.

Scenarios:

- Little = Parent and Big = Child: The "child" has just gotten in trouble for watching tv when they weren't supposed and the "parent" is in charge of talking about the rule breaking and deciding on a punishment
- Little= Student and Big = Teacher: The "student" is having a hard time in class with understanding the lessons. The "teacher" must give them advice and encourage them.
- Little = Peer and Big = Bully: The "peer" has just walked in on the "bully" giving another student a hard time. The "peer" is tasked with appropriately asking the bully to stop and encourage them to be nicer.

Discussion Questions:

- Was it hard to come up with responses as your "character?" Why?
- Is it hard to think of a punishment, way to encourage someone, or way to stand up to a bully? How can it become easier?
- Why did you choose to react the way you did in the scenarios?
- Why is it important to understand and consider the thoughts and feelings of others?
- What have you learned from this activity?